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GEOGRAPHIC
INTELLIGENCE
MEMORANDUM

CIA/RR GM 60-2
22 January 1960

OVERSEAS CHINESE
IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

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Background

The presence of the overseas Chinese* in every country of Southeast Asia constitutes a minority problem that is common to the region as a whole. Although the Overseas Chinese represent only about 8 percent of the total population of the region, their influence is far greater than their numbers would imply. In one country the Chinese have a virtual monopoly over certain key commercial enterprises, which could provide the Communist with a powerful economic tool for subversive activities against the nation of Southeast Asia. Currently, this potential for subversion is primarily conditioned by the fact that the Overseas Chinese are generally apolitical.

The presence of sizable Chinese communities, however, is in itself a visible reminder to Southeast Asian leaders of migration from China into Southeast Asia. Since neither country nor citizenship is a realistic criterion as to who is Chinese in the overseas context, it is difficult to give a completely valid enumeration or picture of the distribution of Overseas Chinese throughout the region. Of the estimated total population of 100 million in Southeast Asia, some 11 to 12 million may be considered Chinese. Partially because the vast majority migrated by way of the sea, the Chinese live chiefly in the delta areas -- the sites of the Southeast Asian ports and great commercial centers. Chinese are relatively sparse in the border areas, except for the refugees and irregular offshoots in northeastern Burma, northern Thailand, and northern Laos. The mapmaking may not tell what the rest in what Chinese are concentrated, the parts of China from which they came, the total number in each country, and its linguistic composition.

The Indonesians have one of the largest percentages for Southeast Asian Chinese -- the provinces of Sumatra, Palembang, and Sumatra -- with most coming from Indonesia (about 50 percent of the total Chinese group are regarded as Indonesians). Malacca, Penang, Medan, Surabaya, and Singapore. Only the Batakans and Batakans speak Chinese in the language of the Chinese diaspora. The Chinese are not so much in the Chinese as in the Chinese. Within a Southeast Asian country, a specific Chinese group often retains distinctive characteristics. For example, most major Chinese and Chinese communities in Cambodia are Chinese, and the Chinese dominate the rice industry of Indonesia.

Distribution

Japan** About 60 percent of the Chinese in Japan are concentrated in Bangkok and the surrounding lowland delta area and south into Sumatra. Another 20 percent or more is found in the Andamans and Nicobars. Most of the Chinese in Japan are engaged in commerce and industry work -- retail and laboring working on company -- but some are employed in fishing and mining.

Thailand Approximately 50 percent of the Chinese in Thailand live in the Bangkok area. They are heavily engaged in commerce and industry. In the north, the center of Thailand's tin and rubber industries. Elsewhere, they tend to live in towns and villages, engaged in commerce and industry. In the northeast, Chinese are dominant in commerce and industry, operating 80 percent of the rice mills and owning and operating most of the banking, insurance, and export-import firms. Most of the labor force in the rubber and tin industries is also Chinese.

* Overseas Chinese may be defined as the China-born Chinese population residing in a foreign country, together with their patrilineal descendants who self-identify themselves personally and socially as Chinese.

** For details of the number and distribution of Overseas Chinese by specific countries, see the map and tables on the reverse side. The figures given for internal subdivisions only are the latest available, generally from the most recent census, and may be out of date from the revision of the total number of Overseas Chinese given in the text table.

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CHINESE POPULATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

| Country | Total Population | Chinese Population | | | Major Chinese Groups by Nationality |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Number (thousands) | % of Total | % of Chinese | |
| China | 600,000 | 770 | 0.13 | 100 | 90% H, 10% C, 10% F, 10% S |
| Indonesia | 100,000 | 1,000 | 1.0 | 100 | 90% H, 10% C, 10% F, 10% S |
| Malaysia | 10,000 | 100 | 1.0 | 100 | 90% H, 10% C, 10% F, 10% S |
| Thailand | 10,000 | 100 | 1.0 | 100 | 90% H, 10% C, 10% F, 10% S |
| Philippines | 10,000 | 100 | 1.0 | 100 | 90% H, 10% C, 10% F, 10% S |
| India | 10,000 | 100 | 1.0 | 100 | 90% H, 10% C, 10% F, 10% S |
| Sumatra | 10,000 | 100 | 1.0 | 100 | 90% H, 10% C, 10% F, 10% S |
| Java | 10,000 | 100 | 1.0 | 100 | 90% H, 10% C, 10% F, 10% S |
| Sumatra | 10,000 | 100 | 1.0 | 100 | 90% H, 10% C, 10% F, 10% S |
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7 Jun 1966

GM 60-2

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Asked [REDACTED] to have Records Center
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tomorrow.

STATINTL

19Sep66

GM 60-2

Sent Records Center request to [REDACTED] to have
Rec. Cen. send one copy to [REDACTED] CGS, 1-G-38, Langley.

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Title of Report

Date

Report No. CIA/RR GM 60-2

11 Feb 65

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Analyst/Branch

Graphics

Copy No.

To

Date

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STATINTL

62

9 Aug 60

72

ONE, 7-E-62, 11 Feb 65

73

STATINTL

21 Jul 64

117

185

176

179

GO/F File
GO/F File
Col. Demet E. Walker
Attn: SCFA (Col. Walker)
Hq. AFEC
Andrews AFB.

11 Mar 66

19 May 66

9 May 66

192-193

for Ft. Bragg School (see attached)

14 Aug 64

200

STATINTL

1 Jan 66

* 203

D/GG File

* 204

Circulated in D/GG

* 205

STATINTL

* 206

ODD/I

9 Jan 63

Graphics

*fwd to us by D/GC (and numbered by them)

14 August 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] 25X1A

SUBJECT: ATSWS-DI Request for Publications

REFERENCE: Memorandum dated 28 July 1964 from DI, USASWS,
Lt. Col. Evans

1. Two copies each of the following Geography Division publications, specifically requested by title and number in the first paragraph of the reference memorandum, are transmitted herewith:

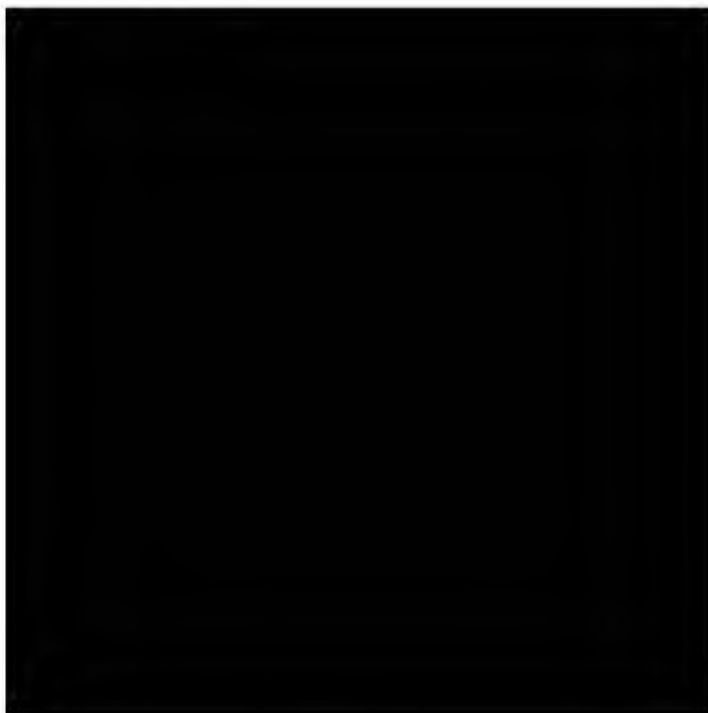
Title

CIA/RR

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Report No.

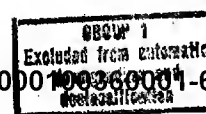
Nos.



| | |
|-------------|----------|
| GP 62-186:L | 76, 77 |
| GP 62-357:L | 148, 149 |
| GP 63-115:L | 17, 18 |
| GP 63-1:L | 134, 135 |
| GS 63-7 | 120, 121 |
| GP 62-390:L | 145, 146 |
| GP 63-150:L | 97, 98 |

2. The following D/GG publications are sent in partial answer to the further request for studies on areas and groups named in subsequent paragraphs of the reference memorandum:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Laos | GM 59-2 | 378, 379 |
| Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia | GM 60-2 ✓ | 192, 193 |
| South Vietnam | GM 60-4 | 247, 248 |



25X1C

Subject: ATSWS-DI Request for Publications

| <u>Title</u> | <u>CIA/RR Report No.</u> | <u>Copy Nos.</u> |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand Zone of Conflict in Southeast Asia | GM 61-2 | 153, 236 |
| Angola | GM 61-4 | 202, 203 |
|  | GR-55 | 625 |

25X1C

3. Other areas and groups have not been included in the work of this Division.


Chief, Geography Division, ORR

25X1A

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

| Date | Status | See Card #1 Attached | Card #2 |
|---------|-----------------|---|---------|
| | | Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP84-00825R000100360001-6 | |
| 28Dec59 | Post Ed. | Back from Editing; will have to go there again. Maps in progress. | |
| 4 Jan60 | (not yet typed) | Maps now scheduled to go to Reproduction 15 Jan. | |
| 12Jan60 | | Map and text scheduled to go to Reproduction early next week. | |
| | | Text has been coordinated with interested components. | |
| 19Jan60 | | Test and maps due to go to Reproduction today. | |
| | | To Reproduction 22 Jan 60; requested for 1 February | |
| 1Feb60 | | Has to be rerun. | |

STATINTL

Requester: Self-initiated
 Date Initiated: 30 Oct 58
 Title: Overseas Chinese
 Analyst: [REDACTED]
 Priority: I.b.

Report No. CIA/RR GM 60-1
 Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP84-00825R000100360001-6
 Maps: To go to Reprod. 15 Jan
 Deadline: Jan 60

29586

card #1


| Date | Status | Notes |
|-------------|----------|---|
| 27 Aug 1959 | Research | 50% complete. In a language in favor of Laos GM. |
| | STATINTL | [redacted] to pick up after Laos. |
| 21 Sep | | To be reappraised as GM; turnover of GM farmstead change |
| 28 Sep | Writing | No. 1 priority for [redacted] Is on drops farm. |
| | | Initial review/editing complete but farmstead in question |
| 19 Oct | STATINTL | [redacted] checking re currency of material. |
| | | Probably completed in Dec. |
| 26 Oct | | In a language in favor of 1812 |
| 23 Nov | | Work resumed. |
| 30 Nov | STATINTL | [redacted] OKed format. Larger map compilation almost complete. |
| | | Smaller, simple map to be done. Text requires some polishing. |
| 7 Dec | | Polishing of text under way; to go to editing latter part of Dec. |
| 14 Dec | | Is being retyped (draft). |

STATINTL

Requester: Self-initiated
 Date Initiated: 30 Oct 58
 Title: Overseas Chinese
 Reports: CIA/RR GM
 Analyst: [redacted]
 Priority: I.b.

x

STATINTL

 1-E-48-46

Per your request of 15 July 64, the following reports are forwarded for transmittal to FE/DDP:

CIA/RR GS 63-16, August 1963, Copy 11
GP 62-142:L, Jun 1962, Copy 15
GP 61-198:L, Dec 1961, Copy 35
GP 61-201:L, Dec 1961, Copy 16
GM 60-2, 22 Jan 1960, Copy 73

STATINTL

 D/GG/RR 3-E-58 x6018 21 July 64

x

TITLE: Quercus Chinese in Southest PN: 61.1711
REQUESTER: Self-initiated / Asian Report No. GM 60-2

| Date | Analyst | Editor or Coordinator* | Typist | Date | Analyst | Editor or Coordinator* | Typist |
|--------|---------|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------------------------|--------|
| Oct 58 | 52 | | | Nov 59 | 3 | | |
| Nov 58 | 32 | | | Dec 59 | 39 | 18 | 33 |
| Dec 58 | 56 | | | Jan 60 | 32 | 48 | 36 |
| Jan 59 | 26 | | | | | | |
| Feb 59 | 80 | | | | | | |
| Mar 59 | 41 | | | | | | |
| Apr 59 | | | 2 | | | | |
| May 59 | 56 | | | | | | |
| Jun 59 | 31 | | 7 | | | | |
| Jul 59 | 16 | | 5 | | 464 | 66 | 83 |

* Coordinator: NIS

REPORT APPROVALS

**FINAL TYPING INSTRUCTIONS

Project No. 61.1711
Report No. GMH ~~59~~ 60-2

By: Photolith _____

Ditto _____

On Bond with
copies _____

Other _____
(Explain)

Reviewed and Approved by: _____ Date Released: _____
Analyst J.H. July 20, 1959
Branch Chief GRW 23 July 59
*Division Chief RA 23 July 59
Reapproved GRW 10 Dec. 59.
*Instruction of Division Chief for
Expediting Editing and Review:

REPRODUCTION APPROVALS

| Priority | Degree of Editing Needed |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| a. <u>✓</u> | 1. _____ |
| b. _____ | 2. _____ |
| c. _____ | 3. _____ |
| | 4. _____ |

Corrections to Final Copy approved
and released for Reproduction:

LO 21 Jan
Date

Reproduced (Ditto) copy approved
by Editing:

LO 22 Jan
Date

Editor LO Jan
Editor/Analyst Jan
*Typed (Final) MEB 19 Jan
Proofreaders MEB-LO 15 Jan 60
EDS-
JRM 1

NOTE: Accompanying map is
underway in GC/F.

Note: Reports in the CIA/RR-G and CIA/RR-MR series are sent to Ch/G before release
for Reproduction. G reports are accompanied by a memorandum of evaluation addressed
to AB FR.

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS: Sent to Cartography 20 Jan 60
Sent to Reproduction 22 Jan

Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP84-00825R000100360001-6

| | | |
|---|----------|------------|
| TO: | | DATE |
| Chief, D/G B | | 5 May 1959 |
| ROOM NO. | BUILDING | |
| REMARKS: | | |
| <p>Jay. After talking with you about no need for concealing the project I called [redacted]. He thinks it's not impracticable to use the G.M. format and agrees to see what can be done. The G.M. will be a better vehicle to get this info. to levels where the problem of overseas Chinese is a factor in</p> | | |
| FROM: | | |
| (over) | | |
| ROOM NO. | BUILDING | EXTENSION |

STATINTL

STATINTL

Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP84-00825R000100360001-6

deliberations.
Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP84-00825R000100360001-6

Perhaps with more encouragement the G.M. issuances could continue to make a sizeable contribution as they have in the past. There will be little contribution with few issuances. There has been a considerable amount of favorable comment about the worth of the G.M.'s in general and specific ones as well, e.g. Tibet - Offshore Islands, Mt. Scopus, Sinai. In view of the values to be derived from pushing a product which has gained entrance through quality & reasonable size a bit of encouraging salesmanship is not over the top. 223

Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP84-00825R000100360001-6

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, St/C/RR

DATE: 4 May 1959

THRU : Chief, G

FROM : Chief, D/GG

SUBJECT: Cancellation of PN 61.1711, Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia

Research performed on this project has developed the fact that the GM format will not be satisfactory and that the MR is a better medium for its publication. Therefore PN 61.1711 is cancelled and the subject will be covered in a forthcoming issue of the MR, probably MR 59-3.

STATINTL

Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP84-00825R000100360001-6

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Chief, D/GG

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STATINTL

1711